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varieties of pistachio scions on established native pistachio trees should be given particular attention. Almond orchards could be increased to advantage.

Vegetables and Potatoes

Vegetable culture is concentrated in the neighborhood of the large cities where such products as radishes, lettuce, cabbage, cucumbers, squash, tomatoes and others are in good supply during the season. Unfortunately vegetables do not figure prominently in the diet of most people. Outside of the big towns little or no vegetables are eaten. In part, this appears to be due to the fact that tribal tradition holds the cultivation of vegetables in low esteem. However, where the sharecropper is inclined to grow vegetables, he may be discouraged by the lack of available land or the shifting of the area assigned to him for cultivation. If a determined effort were made by the government to enlist the cooperation of the landowners, it might not be too difficult to overcome these obstacles.

It might be desirable to increase the production of potatoes which are now imported to the value of about ID 100,000 per year. The lighter soils along the large streams in the provinces of Mosul, Erbil and Suleimaniya are particularly well adapted to the production of both Irish and sweet potatoes. With proper guidance in cultural practices and the use of fertilizers, planters in these areas could easily supply the country's needs. If it is demonstrated that potato yields compare favorably with other crops, the government might well encourage the planting of potatoes both by launching an educational campaign and by furnishing the necessary seed to planters. Special attention will need to be given to transport, however, and the growers will have to be shown how to build inexpensive potato bins or pits with sufficient ventilation, insulation and accessibility.

Tobacco

Tobacco has been grown to some extent in the North for centuries, although it was not until the last few decades that its production assumed importance. Even now, the value of the tobacco crop is probably no more than a tenth of that of wheat or barley. In the mountainous areas of Erbil and Suleimaniya, however, it is

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a greater security of tenure. Other factors, which have no doubt affected the permanence of villages in some parts of the irrigation zone in central and southern Iraq, are the salination of the land and the silting of canals. In such cases, the fellahin have no choice but to abandon their villages.

In spite of these differences, however, the villages have a number of characteristics in common. The typical village is a cluster of huts huddled together without any orderly design. There are no communal facilities or open spaces for the recreation of the children. The huts are so constructed as to keep out heat, cold and sandstorms at the minimum expense. Consequently, they consist of a single room with thick walls and a doorway, which usually opens on a small enclosed yard that is used for both cooking food and keeping draft animals. In order to avoid sand and sunlight, windows are either very small or totally lacking; sashes are expensive. Furnishings are limited to such elementary necessities as a mat and a plain table or a bench. Sanitary facilities, including latrines, are generally lacking.

The villages are necessarily located near a source of water, by a canal in the irrigation zone, by a stream or a well in the North. The water is not piped, but must be carried from its source to wherever it is used. Nor is it purified, although the canals in the irrigation zone may be heavily polluted. The water which has been used by men for washing and in which animals have immersed themselves while drinking is often used for human consumption. The constant trampling of the canal banks for these purposes leads to leaks and, hence, to stagnant pools near the adjacent village. Where the source of water is a well, the earth nearby may be dug out for use in the construction of houses and so, similarly, a stagnant pool may be the result. Such pools, combined with the total absence of any sanitary disposal of waste and garbage, constitute a serious danger to health.

Trees are rarely seen in the villages, although they would give relief from the sun and from sandstorms. Trees would also provide firewood instead of the fuels currently used—animal dung, which could be used instead as fertilizer, and brushwood, which has to be gathered with considerable effort. Small gardens for vegetables are unknown. In fact, fruit and vegetables are almost

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exclusively grown by farmers who specialize in these commodities and who market their produce in the towns.

Planning the Improvement of the Villages

Clearly it will not be possible to bring about any substantial and lasting change in the state of some thousands of villages until the root causes of poverty, ignorance and insecurity have been tackled. Only then can thriving communities replace the present villages with their primitive and almost static mode of life.

Legislation for the improvement of villages is already in existence. In 1936, a law (No. 70) for the construction of new villages was passed, empowering the Ministry of Interior to construct or renew villages, having regard particularly to health requirements, such as the construction of sanitary facilities and public baths, the hygienic disposal of waste and the provision of drinking water. A draft law on similar lines, but placing the responsibilty on the Ministry of Social Affairs, was put before Parliament during 1951. Parliament sent it back to the Council of Ministers for amalgamation with the earlier statute. Both are admirable in objective, but both are focussed primarily on the reconstitution of villages on more hygienic lines without regard for the urgent educational and economic aspects of the problem and without recognizing the need to enlist the cooperation of the people. Only a comprehensive and popular program can really reach the people and encourage them to help themselves. That little, in fact, has been done under the 1936 law is itself eloquent testimony to this.

The task of remaking the villages is typically one for the new Community Planning Office. In cooperation with all the government departments concerned and with their advice, it should be able to formulate and issue the necessary regulations, of which those that affect health are only a part, under the power conferred on it by the projected planning enabling act.

The Mission has elsewhere made a number of recommendations designed to raise the standard of living of the rural population. On the agricultural side, these include the organization of an extension service, the creation of cooperatives, measures to improve livestock and the provision of better drainage. Medical recommendations include the opening of more village dispensaries, the